The Halyard
A weekly newsletter for Virginia's Library Media Specialists
December 3-10

Charlie's chatter

There are advantages and disadvantages in traveling and being away from the office. I love meeting new people, seeing old friends, catching up on all the exciting events that are occurring across Virginia but then when I get back into the office, all of the emails I could not respond to from the 'road' and the mail, and the telephone messages, and the work that arrived in my absence are patiently waiting my return.

The two recent trips to the Hotel Roanoke were well worth it. I learned so much and was so excited to see the reaction to the preliminary release of the Linking Libraries and Academic Achievement project at both the VEMA and the Educational Technology Leadership conferences. Many of you commented on how valuable you feel the document will prove to be. I love hearing your success stories and the innovative ways that you are reaching out to your staff members.

At the first timers breakfast at the VEMA conference I was also pleased to see several of Longwood's graduate students in attendance. I was especially pleased to see that three of them who had attended Prince George High School and worked in the school library. I had the privilege to be their librarian! I welcome, Julie Johnson, Allison Heath, and Jennifer Moore to the greatest job in the world!

Linking Libraries Update

The web master sent me the test site today and I spent the better part of the day checking the links and proofing. I sent it back and hopefully the posting to the web will be soon. This project was received positively at both the VEMA and the Educational Technology Leadership conferences. Thanks to all of you who attended the sessions. Watch the listserv for

We can not control the wind but we can adjust the sails.

its posting.

Computer Technology SOL *(Please share this information with teachers and administrators in your building)*

The 1995 and 2000 Computer Technology Standards of Learning are being revised. The standards can be downloaded from http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Superintendent/Sols/home.shtml. The Department of Education is seeking input from stakeholders for suggestions for revision and comments concerning the existing standards. Comments should be sent via email to 95ctsol@doe.virginia.gov

Professional Development Opportunities

Radford University is developing a stronger and more expansive library program. They are looking at both distance learning and on campus classes for certification as school library media specialists. Watch for more details as they become available.

Mansfield University in Pennsylvania is also offering online course work towards a master's in school library and information technologies. Visit http://library.mansfield.edu/ for more information.

Longwood University, **The University of Virginia at Wise**, **Old Dominion University, Catholic University of America, The University of South Carolina**, and **Virginia Commonwealth University** also provide opportunities for professional growth.

Information regarding licensure and certification in Virginia may be found at http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/newvdoe/teached.html

On The Bookcase

Doug Johnson, a well-known and respected advocate for school library programs wrote an article for the December issue of **American Libraries** (p.46-48), entitled *Lesson School Librarians Teach Others*. He lists five ethical challenges that school library media specialists face:

- Encouraging intellectual freedom in a filtered environment.
- Preventing plagiarism, an offense that digital resources make easier than ever to commit.

We can not control the wind but we can adjust the sails.

- Protecting privacy and confidentiality in an increasingly networked information environment.
- Imparting information evaluation skills of materials on the free Internet.
- Closing the ongoing digital divide.